

I would urge all of my colleagues to take full advantage of the resources available to the public on the web site of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China—www.cecc.gov—and to make use of the Commission's analysis of developments as they unfold in Tibetan areas, and across China. The Commission monitors and reports continuously on human rights and the rule of law in China, and I encourage all to check the Commission's web site regularly for updates, to subscribe to the on-line newsletter, and to rely on the Commission's published reports to keep up with developments in China.

Finally, the resolution of Tibetan grievances can occur only with direct talks between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. As China plays an increasingly important role in the international community, other countries will appropriately assess China's fulfillment of the commitments it has made in both Chinese and international law, including legal and constitutional commitments to ethnic minorities. The international spotlight remains on China. We hope that the Chinese government will welcome such attention with a full commitment to openness, and to the implementation of basic human rights.

YEAR OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of making 2009 the Year of the Military Family.

It is an honor to support this measure and to express my heartfelt appreciation, and that of our entire congressional district, for the families of our men and women who serve in the military.

For so many New Mexican families, military service has been in our blood for generations.

Our state has often had the highest rate of military volunteerism in the country and the 1st congressional district is home to countless veterans, not to mention the large number of proud service members stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Yet we know all too well that with each individual who generously gives their service to their country through our military, there is a significant impact on those closest to them.

Each time a service member leaves home, they leave behind caring husbands and wives, loving sons and daughters, worried parents and whole communities that remain concerned for their safety.

There is no question that these affected families are also serving our country—by courageously enduring long separations from loved ones and the demands of deployments abroad.

So today, I proudly honor the commitment, sacrifice, courage and steadfast support that have been provided by our country's military families, allowing our service members to serve and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GHENT, INC.

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community institution in Harrisburg, Illinois, celebrating its 100th birthday.

Bill Ghent, Inc. began business in 1909 as J.C. Robertson, and boasted as its slogan, "Friends may sympathize, but we pay cash." Bill Ghent joined the business in the late 1930s, and in 1957, Bill Ghent, Inc. was established. In the early days, the only worries this small-town insurance agency was concerned with were fire and lightning. "Now, we've got all kinds of perils to deal with," Bill Ghent, II, told the local newspaper.

These days, Bill Ghent, Inc. insures not just private citizens and their property, but also looks after the schools of the area. Insuring schools is something of a tradition for Bill Ghent, Inc. In Mr. Ghent's office, behind glass, is the 1909 to 1911 policy for the Bramlet School in Raleigh, Illinois. It insured the school building for \$500 and the contents for \$100.

Bill Ghent, Inc. has served the residents of Harrisburg and southeastern Illinois from the days of horse and buggies to today's modern world. I want to congratulate Bill Ghent and all the employees of Bill Ghent, Inc. on one hundred years of service to the community, and to wish them one hundred more.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BRIAN SCHAR

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Albert Caswell is one of the finest tour guides in the United States Capitol Guide Service. But what many may not know about Albert is that he is also a gifted poet.

Oftentimes, when I run into Albert in the Capitol, he shares his work with me. Recently, he gave me a poem about a man from my District in East Tennessee, Sergeant Brian Schar.

Sergeant Schar served our Nation valiantly during the War on Terror, and in doing so made a sacrifice only few could imagine.

Albert's poem is a tribute to Sergeant Schar's courage and strength as he adjusts to life as a double amputee. While we often hear on the news of the lives lost in the War, we also need reminding of the thousands more who suffered life-altering injuries.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call Albert's poem to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD, and I pray many will be inspired by his words.

Everyday, magnificent men and women like SSG Schar go off to war and leave their loved ones behind. All for the greater good, putting themselves last while putting their nation first. Many lie in graves as the ultimate sacrifice. While, others like Brian . . .

must come home and fight another battle. While all the time teaching and inspiring us, with their undying faith and courage to inspire us.

ONE THING . . . FOR SCHAR

Throughout the course of our nation's history . . .

There have come so many fine patriots who have blessed her so indeed . . .

And many all from this great state of Tennessee . . .

Men like Crockett all in their glory . . .

And Sargent York, all the more he . . .

Who, fought and died . . . all so we could be free . . . their story . . .

Men, who went straight into that face of hell . . .

With hearts of courage full, which swelled . . .

Who all in that moment of truth . . .

Have so showed us the proof . . .

That on this earth, angers dwell . . .

For there have been so many Tennesseans, such fine lives would create . . .

Men who have so blessed our nation, and this their state . . .

But, One Thing For Schar . . .

The Tallest of All Tennessean's by far . . .

Are but men like this young star . . .

Men who so bravely lived and died . . .

Who come home without arms and legs . . .

And don't ask why? . . .

For they have a higher calling . . .

As they wipe those tears from their eyes . . .

For he won't moan and he won't beg . . .

As a new war he must wage . . .

As on this day he stands taller, than any other man with legs . . .

As he must go through hell and back, all so you can say . . .

I am free this day . . .

As one of The Tallest of Tennessean's, he now stands . . .

As it's his heart that which now so commands . . .

Teaching us . . .

Reaching us . . .

Into your our very souls to make us understand . . .

Why we are free, and how beautiful a heart can be . . .

Blessing us all, you and me . . .

As the high cost of freedom we so see . . .

As from his heart he speaks!

Saying, I will not be stopped . . .

I will not be slowed . . .

As a force of nature, as onward he goes . . .

As his fine heart climbs mountains tops . . .

And if I ever have a son . . .

I but hope and pray that he could but be like this fine one . . .

But, one thing I ask . . .

One, Thing . . . For Schar . . .

As you go home this night . . .

Holding, your family warm and tight . . .

As all in your world, all seems so right . . .

Remember, the great price of freedom paid . . .

Get down on your knee's . . .

And thank this young man so brave . . .

And all of his brothers and sisters in arms, who now so lie in soft quiet graves!

Just, One Thing For Schar . . .

ALBERT CAREY CASWELL ©, 2009

FAOY This poem is dedicated to a real American Hero Brian Schar . . . he was injured on September 9th 2007 in an IED blast . . . SSG Brian Schar of A. Co. 9th Eng 1st ID The United States Army . . . Brian is a Combat Engineer from Sevierville Tennessee.